



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Robert K. Mahood Receives Prestigious David H. Hart Award

Rockport, Maine – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission today proudly recognized the enormous commitment of Robert K. Mahood to the conservation and management of Atlantic coast fisheries. The award was presented at the Commission's 60th Annual Meeting in Rockport, Maine.

This year's David H. Hart Award recipient has enjoyed a distinguished 31-year career in state and federal fisheries management. His contributions to the conservation of Atlantic coastal marine fisheries resources are numerous, long-term and represent a state as well as federal perspective.

Bob Mahood is one of our few colleagues who have served as director of the marine fisheries agency in two different states. After serving as the Director of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Bob was appointed Executive Director of the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAFMC), in which capacity he has served since 1985.

Prior to Bob's appointment to the SAFMC staff, he served as a Council member for six years, representing the North Carolina and Georgia fisheries agencies during that time. Simultaneously, he served as an Administrative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Bob was a Council Scientific and Statistical Committee member from 1976 until 1980 and an ASMFC Advisory Committee member from 1975 until 1980.

Bob Mahood is one of the longest serving members of the ASMFC South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board, having represented the states with which he was affiliated from 1980 through 1985, and representing the Council since the ISFMP Charter was crafted in 1984. Because of Bob's easy going demeanor and his institutional knowledge of state/federal fisheries management issues and strategies, the South Atlantic states brought the Council to the interstate fishery management planning table for species of interest to the South Atlantic. This in turn has served as a model for recent changes to the ISFMP Charter. Bob is unique in having chaired the South Atlantic Board in his state director capacity in 1983-84 and again, wearing his Council hat, in 1998 - 1999.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

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Bob has championed the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) since its inception, committing significant Council personnel and fiscal resources to the Program's development and implementation. He has served on the Executive Committee representing all East Coast Council interests.

Bob Mahood has provided executive leadership to the Councils, forging compromises among the Executive Directors on contentious issues such as allocation of Congressional appropriations to the Councils, Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization issues, NMFS operational guidelines for the Councils, etc.. His administrative and executive leadership of the SAFMC has been a major contributing factor to the positive reputation that our Council enjoys in conserving living marine resources and essential fish habitat.

The Commission instituted the "Captain David H. Hart Award" in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of marine fisheries on the Atlantic coast. The award is named for the Commission's oldest and longest-serving member, a Governor's Appointee from New Jersey who was dedicated to the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources. Past recipients of the award are: Irwin M Alperin, longtime Executive Director of the Commission; Representative Walter B. Jones of North Carolina; Dr. Edwin B. Joseph with South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources; Richard H. Schaefer, Chief of Staff for Intergovernmental and Recreational Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service; David G. Deuel of the National Marine Fisheries Service; Philip G. Coates, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries; David M. Cupka of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources; and Sergeant Robert A. Babula, Conservation Officer with the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department; Gordon C. Colvin, Director of Marine Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and Susan Shipman, Chief of Marine Fisheries, Georgia Coastal Resources Division.

For more information regarding the David H. Hart Award, please contact Laura Leach, Director of Finance and Administration, at (202) 289-6400.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.

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